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Report of the Governor of Alaska, 1891

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REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Sitka, Alaska, October 1, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my third annual report of my official acts, of the administration of the government, of the operations of law and of the condition of the District of Alaska, especially as to its resources, industries, population, schools, churches, progress in civilization, and such matters appertaining to its needs as have come under my observation for the year ending on the 30th day of June, 1891.

The peculiar physical features of the Territory of Alaska sufficiently account for many of the anomalous conditions of life and business, and the operations of law, when they are understood. It is a country of vast extent, covering an area of about 580,000 square miles, nearly one-sixth of the whole territory of the United States, extending from south to north from latitude $54^{\circ} 40'$ ($16\frac{2}{3}$ degrees) to latitude $71^{\circ} 20'$, and from east to west from 130° west longitude ($57^{\circ} 20'$) to $172^{\circ} 40'$ east longitude.

The mainland consists of a strip of land 30 miles wide, along the coast from Portland Canal on the south to the one hundred and forty-first meridian of west longitude, in the vicinity of Mt. St. Elias, and all of the continent lying west of the one hundred and forty-first meridian north from Mt. St. Elias to the Arctic Ocean. Along the coast in southeastern Alaska is an almost continuous chain of precipitous mountains from 3,000 to 5,000 feet in height, but rising to a much greater height in the White and Mt. St. Elias ranges. Among these mountains, which occupy the whole of the mainland in this part of the Territory, are numerous valleys, and at their feet there are comparatively narrow areas of level or gently rising lands, which are covered with dense forests of spruce, hemlock, and cedar trees, with almost impenetrable thickets of smaller growths. These forests furnish wood and timber, the value of which is yet to be determined. From Mt. St. Elias to the western point of the Alaska peninsula at Issanotski Strait, with the exception of a section of country about Cook Inlet, which is quite level, the coast region is very much broken and mountainous, though with few exceptions the mountains are not so precipitous as in the southern portion, and the timber becomes smaller and less valuable until the forest growth ceases from a point in the vicinity of Kadiak Island westward. The interior of Alaska beyond the coast mountains is less elevated for the most part, and contains extensive plains and hilly country about Bering Sea and adjacent to the Arctic Ocean. It

also embraces the vast valley of the Yukon and other extensive river systems, which are in part wooded. There are but few prominent mountains in the interior.

In addition to this mainland there are embraced within the Territory of Alaska some 1,100 islands, varying in size from those containing areas of hundreds of square miles to those containing a few acres. The islands of southeastern Alaska are very mountainous and broken, and all the mountains of more than 2,000 feet in height are covered with snow at all seasons of the year.

Among these islands, and extending far into the mainland, are numerous deep-sea channels which serve as highways of travel and commerce, and these salt-water ways are supplemented by immense rivers like the Yukon and its branches, the Kuskokwim, the Nushagak, the Copper, the Stikine, Noyatak, Colville, and the Kowak, which afford facilities for transportation and travel from the interior, and without which communication with a large portion of the Territory would be well-nigh impossible.

In discussions upon the subject of establishing facilities for communication and travel in parts of the country remote from the seaboard and not near the water ways to which reference has been made, all natural obstructions like glaciers and the frozen tundra of the Arctic region must be taken into consideration. Through the mountain regions of southeastern Alaska glaciers are numerous, and among the mountains of Alaska peninsula only a little less so. It has been officially reported that above 60 glaciers can be seen from the waters of Lynn Canal, while the larger glaciers of Glacier Bay, and the Fairweather and Mount St. Elias ranges are matters of record. The tundra lands of the Arctic region and in the Yukon valley a few miles back from the river afford no wood or timber, and give little promise of future cultivation or use for purposes of raising stock. Under the thick coat of sphagnum growth is a deposit of peaty substance, or soil, of poor quality, owing to the presence of only partially decayed vegetation, and this substitute for soil is frozen solid to a considerable depth and protected from the influence of the hot sun of the summer by its mossy covering.

The mountain range which forms the coast region of Alaska and sweeps away to the westward through the peninsula and the Aleutian islands, is apparently a continuation of the Rockies which form the backbone of the continent, and the chain of islands seems like the caudal appendage of some huge vertebrate animal. These islands seem to be largely of volcanic origin.

One authority has enumerated sixty-one volcanoes that have been active since the occupation of the country by the Russians, mostly on the Alaska peninsula and the Aleutian isles. It may be questioned whether this is not an overestimate of the number, but there are very many extinct volcanoes in the Territory which exhibit indubitable evidences of their former character. Of those now active or in operation within two decades, so far as can be definitely stated, there are not more than a dozen. The following are positively known, and five of them have been seen in a high state of activity by the writer within a few months.

Bogoslof, 100 miles directly west of Unalaska, about 600 feet in height, emits smoke and steam with great force from innumerable fissures in the surface of broken rock and friable matter, the whole of this part of the island having come up out of the sea within a few years past. This mountain has been fully described in official reports.

Makushin, on Unalaska Island, snow covered, slowly but steadily pouring out its immense volumes of steam and white smoke, is visible in a clear day for 50 miles at sea.

Akutan, on Akutan Island, between Unimak and Akutan passes, violently puffing out its black and white smoke from a wide open mouth on its summit, at intervals of a few seconds, is the observed of all observers.

Sheshaldin, on Unimak Island, a beautiful cone of the most perfect proportions, rising to a height of 8,755 feet from the sea, which laves and dashes in spray and foam upon its base, clad in robes of fleecy snow at the time of the writer's observation on the 28th of April last, but disclosing its broad and blackened pathway of ashes and condensed smoke and steam from the huge orifice near the sharp-pointed apex to the base, is still gently smoking as if a raging fire were now just dying down for want of fuel.

Pavlof, near Belkofsky on the Alaska peninsula, which can be approached to the very base of the mountain at Bear and Pavlof Bays, apparently something more than 4,000 feet in height, puffs out its immense volumes of dense black smoke from an opening on one side, perhaps 500 or 1,000 feet from the sharp-pointed summit, at intervals of half a minute, and the visible demonstration of its work in the form of a blackened mountain side to the water's edge soon after a heavy all of snow proved the power of its invisible enginery.

Illiamna, near the left-hand shore of Cook Inlet, as the navigator passes in, is 12,066 feet high, and is reported to be constantly active, sending out ashes and sulphurous smoke.

Redoubt, about 60 miles northeast of Illiamna, is also constantly active, but has never been explored and perhaps only seen from a distance.

Mount St. Augustine, some 150 miles north of Kadiak Island, was active for some months in 1883, but no activity has been reported since the year following. While the eruptions were in progress the decks of vessels were covered with ashes from it for hundreds of miles at sea.

Chirikof, on an island of the same name, was reported active about 10 years ago.

Kagamil. In 1874, when Captain Lennan, now of the steamer *Elsie*, was sent to the islands of the Four Mountains, a small group west of Unmak, to explore a cave said to contain mummies, and from which he succeeded in bringing 17 bodies, most of which have been preserved in different museums in the country, he discovered on Kagamil Island a low mountain near the water's edge, from the base of which in many places there issued jets of sulphurous steam, smoke, and noxious gases which compelled them to stand off from the shore to avoid the offensive odors. No other account of this eruption has been received. These islands are now seldom, if ever, visited.

Progromnia, a mountain near the west end of Unimak Island, 5,832 feet high, is reported upon the charts and in the early records as a volcano, but careful inquiry has failed to elicit definite information of an eruption in recent times.

Thermal and mineral springs are frequent. The large sulphur "Iodine" springs, about 12 miles from Sitka, are very much visited for their remedial qualities in many diseases, and the Hoonah springs are only a little less frequented, on account of the greater inconvenience in reaching them. There are said to be hot marshes and a lake of sulphur on Unimak Island. There is a warm lake on the upper Tanannah, reported by Lieutenant Allen. There are also hot springs, some of them boiling, on the islands Unalaska, Atka, Akun, Kagamil, and Kanaga, at various places on the mainland.

CLIMATE.

The climate of the country is an important element in determining conditions found to exist, and should be taken into consideration in estimates of future development and progress. The broad extent of the Territory, the snow-capped mountains and glaciers, the extensive seacoast, the warm ocean currents, the broad moorland plains of the north-land, and various other peculiar features and conditions necessarily contribute to the wide diversity of climate and atmospheric phenomena which we find to exist. The interior of the Territory, far enough from the coast to be uninfluenced by the sea breezes and ocean currents, exhibits extremes of heat and cold, with long winters and short summers, and has a dry atmosphere through all the seasons; while the climate of the long coast line, from Dixon Entrance to the extreme west end of the Alaskan Peninsula, and of all the islands of southeastern Alaska, of the Kadiak and Shumagin groups and the Aleutian Archipelago is mild and equable and moist. The severity of the climate is greater in the higher latitudes, and north of the Arctic Circle few trees are found, and those are of a stunted growth. In the Yukon Valley the thermometer frequently registers 100° above zero in summer and from 50° to 70° below in winter. From the Yukon to the ocean on the north there are apparently no alleviating climatic conditions. The earth below the tundra moss remains frozen the year round. Portions of the land lying more favorably for drainage produce grasses, small bushes, most beautiful flowers, and an abundance of berries. Snow does not accumulate to a great depth in this region, and there is a very small amount of rainfall in summer.

The more southern portions of the Territory, and especially those affected by oceanic influences, are better known and observations have been taken systematically and in some cases reported officially. From these reports it appears that the variations of heat and cold and wet and dry weather between different places along the coast and among the islands are not so great as to require separate discussions. The thermometer has ranged between 90° above and 4° below zero during the 48 years of the official record at Sitka, with a mean annual temperature from $41^{\circ} 3'$ to $46^{\circ} 8'$. The number of days in which rain or snow fell during the years of this record has averaged up to nearly 200, though some of these days were practically fair and fine. The official weather and meteorological record for the past year at Sitka, kindly furnished me at my request by Lieut. Commander O.W. Farenholt, which is attached as Appendix A, need not be greatly amended to describe meteorological conditions throughout the whole of southeastern Alaska, the coast of the North Pacific, and the island country to the westward.

This peculiarly warm and equable climate in the coast regions is due, as has been heretofore stated, to the Kuro-Siwo, or Japanese Current of warm water, which, flowing across the Pacific Ocean from the tropical regions of the Eastern Hemisphere, strikes the American coast near the southern boundary of Alaska and is deflected in part northward, following the coast in its sweeping bend westward and southward again.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF ALASKA.

After a period of nearly 17 years of purely military and naval rule, in 1884 the act organizing the Russian purchase known as Alaska was passed by Congress and approved by the President of the United

States. The Territorial organization was incomplete and has not since been completed to give the Territory representation in Congress, local legislative powers, or even certainty of position among the Territories of the United States. During the year covered by this report the civil government has been administered by the following officers, viz:

Governor, Lyman E. Knapp; judge of the United States district court, John S. Bngbee; marshal, Orville T. Porter; clerk of court, Nicholas R. Peckinpugh, since August 16, 1890; United States district attorney, Charles S. Johnson; collector of customs, Max Pracht, succeeded by Edwin T. Hatch July 1, 1891; United States commissioners: Sitka, T. Carlos Jewett, until October 2, 1890, since which time Robert C. Rogers; Juneau, Louis L. Williams, to August 9, 1890, since which time William R. Hoyt; Fort Wrangel, James Sheakley; Unalaska Island, Louis H. Tarpley.

All these officers were appointees of the President, by and with the consent of the Senate, and they have been assisted by eight deputy marshals, five deputy collectors of customs, clerks, justices of the peace, notaries public, constables, and native policemen. There has been no friction in the workings of the government machinery, and the hearty coöperation and assistance of all my associates are gratefully acknowledged. I take pleasure also in acknowledging courtesies and assistance from the U. S. S. *Pinta*, Lieut. Commander O. W. Farenholt commanding, and the U. S. revenue cutter *Bear*, Capt. M. A. Healey, commanding.

In addition to my work at my office in Sitka I have made official visits on the U. S. revenue cutter *Bear* to the Shumagin group, Unalaska Island, and the Pribilof islands in the Bering Sea; to Chilcat on the U. S. S. *Pinta*; to Juneau, by the courtesy of Rudolph Newmann, general agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, on their steamer *Dora*; and to various places in southeastern Alaska on the regular line of mail steamers. During these visits careful investigations were made into the condition of the natives, all matters affecting the efficiency of the public schools, the administration of justice, the condition of public buildings, the general progress of the people in the development of the country, and the success of business enterprises of every kind. In all parts of the Territory, so far as information has reached this office, all is peaceful and quiet, and no outbreak of lawlessness, other than exceptional instances of crime and misdemeanor, has occurred.

INDIAN POLICE.

Under the direction of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs I have within the year organized a corps of paid Indian police consisting of 1 native officer and 14 privates, all of whom have been provided with badges and insignia of their office. Provision was made by the department for 4 officers and 50 privates, but up to this time it has been impossible to find men in many of the native villages of whose efficiency and trustworthiness there was sufficient certainty to warrant the issue of commissions. It seemed better to proceed in a conservative manner and only as rapidly as could be done with reasonable certainty. Experience has proved that the best results are obtained by placing the native policemen under the direction of some white man in his vicinity, and when possible a deputy marshal has been named as his chief of police. The native policemen have been instructed to preserve the peace and prevent drunkenness and hoochinoo making among the natives, to inform the marshal of all infringements of law, to secure as

far as possible the attendance of native children at the public schools, and generally to aid the marshal or other person to whom they are required to report in the preservation of order, serving processes, and obtaining information as to matters important for the Government to know as to the condition of affairs among the natives. Since the organization of the police corps last November their services have proved very valuable and it is desirable that the whole force authorized be employed so soon as the right men can be found with conditions favorable for successful results. As a specific instance of the value of the services of these policemen during the fall of 1890 it is said that a firm closing up business at Juneau took a quantity of black molasses to Chilkat, and sold some 8 or more barrels at tempting prices to the Indians, and that they obtained it also from other sources. From this material the Indians distilled a vile liquor called "hoochinoo" in large quantities and during the early part of the winter drunkenness and bacchanalian rows, and even bloodshed, were frightfully common. About the 1st of February last 3 native policemen and 1 white man as an officer were appointed for Chilkat, Chilcoot, Pyramid Harbor, and the upper Chilkat villages, with orders to report to Deputy Marshal Healy. In a few weeks the entire region was substantially cleared of hoochinoo stills and the native liquor. About twenty stills were broken up and more than a hundred gallons of the liquor destroyed and quiet again restored.

MILITIA.

By the act of Congress, February 12, 1887, for the purposes of providing arms, ordnance stores, quartermaster stores, and camp equipage for issue to the militia, provision was made for the supply of the militia of Alaska, and efforts were made by my predecessor to effect an organization, but without success. For the purpose of better caring for stores obtained on his requisition, and preparatory to the organization of the militia of the Territory, I appointed a personal staff of 8 officers, including an adjutant-general, a quartermaster-general and assistant, a surgeon, an inspector-general and 3 aides. On the 5th day of June, 1891, Company A, First Regiment Infantry, Alaska Militia, was organized, with Harry Hare, captain; Fred Heyde and Jo. Snow, lieutenants. The company has 48 men besides the 3 officers. Good reports of this company have since been received. It has been suggested that application may soon be made for the organization of a company of natives, and if so the embarrassing question will arise as to their legal status, upon which subject more will be said hereafter. Further legislation ought to be had allowing the use of a portion of the appropriation for equipment to be used, in the case of the Alaska quota, to pay for services and expenses of the men in an annual encampment and drill, and on occasions, if any such shall occur, when the exigencies of the service require that they be called out for active duty. Thorough efficiency and readiness of response to such calls can only be secured by fair compensation, and no compensation can be provided for except by national legislation.

THE SEAL ISLANDS.

Section 5 of the act of May 17, 1884, requires the governor from time to time to inquire into the operations of the Alaska Seal and Fur Company, and annually report to Congress the result of such inquiries and any and all violations by said company of the agreement existing between the United States and said company.

In the discharge of the duties imposed upon me by this act I used my best endeavors while visiting the seal islands in April last to obtain such information as would give me an intelligent idea of the situation, though my limitations of time and opportunity were such that it is doubtful whether anything of value will be added to the sum of information upon the topics discussed. These islands, also known as the Pribilof Islands, are located in Bering Sea a little more than 200 miles northwest of Unalaska, and consist of St. Paul, St. George, Otter, and Walrus Islands. St. Paul is 13 miles long by 4 in width, and St. George, 30 miles southeast, is about 10 miles long by 4 in width. The other islands are very small and unimportant. All these islands are treeless and somewhat rocky and without harbors. They are evidently of volcanic origin, and a large portion of the time are enveloped in mist and fog. The inhabitants are Aleuts, taken there as employes of the company holding a lease of the islands, and a few white people connected with the company and the Government agent. The North American Commercial Company is the present lessee of the islands. During those parts of the year in which they are not employed for the company the natives are engaged in hunting and fishing or idling away their time in occupations less commendable.

The census and vital statistics for 1890 show on St. George Island 19 native houses and 22 families. The whole native population is 92, of which 42 are males and 50 are females; 51 are adults over the age of 15 years, 23 are between 5 and 15, and 18 are under 5. In 1890 there were 7 deaths and 6 births. On St. Paul Island the number of native families is 66; native population 219, of which 126 are adults over the age of 17 years, 64 from 5 to 17, and 29 under 5. In 1890 there were 21 deaths and 15 births.

The highest point registered by the thermometer in 1890 was 55° and the lowest was zero.

The Government agents, Capt. A. W. Lavender, on St. George, and Colonel Murray on St. Paul Island, took every pains to furnish information upon the subjects of my inquiry, and the company's agents, Mr. C. L. Fowler and Mr. J. C. Redpath, were no less kind and courteous.

The number of seals taken by the North American Commercial Company in 1890 was only 21,596, a much smaller number than had been taken in any year during the continuance of the Alaska Commercial Company's lease. The following table shows the number killed in each year:

Year.	On St. George.	On St. Paul.	Total.	Year.	On St. George.	On St. Paul.	Total.
1871.....	19,077	29,788	48,865	1882.....	20,000	80,000	100,000
1872.....	25,000	65,499	90,499	1883.....	15,000	60,101	75,101
1873.....	25,000	68,035	93,035	1884.....	15,000	83,092	98,092
1874.....	10,000	88,058	98,058	1885.....	16,000	70,451	86,451
1875.....	10,000	83,890	93,890	1886.....	15,000	72,120	87,120
1876.....	10,000	69,367	79,367	1887.....	15,000	77,389	92,389
1877.....	15,000	58,732	73,732	1888.....	15,000	73,808	88,808
1878.....	18,000	78,570	96,570	1889.....	15,000	68,485	83,485
1879.....	20,000	80,572	100,572	1890.....	4,763	16,833	21,596
1880.....	20,000	80,000	100,000				
1881.....	20,000	80,000	100,000	Total.....			1,706,630

During this period there were also killed a considerable number for food by the natives, many of them pups, but not probably in excess of the number allowed by the Government for that purpose.

The marked falling off in the number of seals killed in 1890 may be accounted for in three ways: First, Diminution in the number of seals

visiting the islands, either by reason of unwarranted depredations upon seal life and indiscriminate slaughter of females in the open sea, or by some unexplained freak of the seals in not returning to their accustomed rookeries. Second, Because while the seals were later than usual in reaching the islands in the season of 1890, the killing was stopped on the 20th day of July, instead of August 1, as has been the rule. Third, From the fact that during the last year or two of the Alaska Commercial Company's lease the difficulty of procuring the number allowed them had induced the killing of those younger than had heretofore been taken.

During the fall of 1890 poaching vessels succeeded in landing several boats at one of the rookeries, and some 190 seals, mostly females, were clubbed and killed. The poachers were driven off without their booty, and most of the skins were saved.

The school on St. George Island, George B. Fox, teacher, reports 71 school days with an average daily attendance of 20.154. Slate and blackboard exercises showed efficiency of drill in writing and figures. The school on St. Paul was taught by Edward T. Baldwin, with an average attendance of 43 scholars between the ages of 6 and 16 years. The school was in session 4 months. The grade of acquirements by the scholars of both schools was low, but the fidelity and efficiency of the teachers in their work was undoubted.

Some years ago these islands were stocked by the Alaska Commercial Company with white and blue foxes, and the natives have been allowed to hunt them. The allowance for skins delivered at the company's store was formerly 50 cents, but is now \$1. It is estimated that no less than 9,000 foxes have been taken on St. George Island during the last 20 years. The cash earnings of the natives on St. George Island may be proximately stated as amounting in 20 years to \$198,547.70, made up as follows:

Seal-killing contract.....	\$152,063.20
Other labor for company.....	24,000.00
Skins of food seals.....	13,484.50
Fox skins.....	5,000.00
Other sales.....	4,000.00

The resident population of St. Paul Island has had equally good opportunities, and the cash income has been increased by abundance of food supplies from the seal and sea-lion carcasses, birds, and fishes taken at times when the inhabitants are not employed for the company.

The natives do not quite comprehend and appreciate the importance of laying by their surplus funds in store for future use, and yet they are not wholly improvident.

They have credits with the company, although just now somewhat diminished by their smaller earnings when fewer seals were taken, with figures, on the 1st day of January last, as follows:

Total to the credit of natives August 11, 1890.....	\$4,128.43
Reduced by drafts on deposit.....	1,669.46
Leaving on deposit January 1, 1891.....	2,458.97
Add to this, deposit of the priest.....	1,600.00
Add of the Russian Church.....	1,294.55
Whole deposit January 1.....	5,353.52

The company, so far as could be learned during my brief visit, is endeavoring to treat the people fairly, if not generously, charging only reasonable prices for goods and seeking to promote their physical,

moral, and intellectual welfare. They have a physician on both islands, and health and cleanliness are especially cared for.

The most serious difficulty to be treated seems to be the illegitimate and indiscriminate slaughter of seals, females and the young, as well as the bulls of proper age, in the open sea, a matter which is under the direct attention of the Government. There is no doubt that a most valuable industry and fruitful source of national income is in danger. More than 100 marauding vessels have been hovering about the islands in Bering Sea during the season, and large numbers of skins have been taken. The O. P. N. Co.'s steamer *Danube* made a special trip to the North Pacific during the latter part of June, reaching Victoria on return July 6 last, having on board nearly 18,000 seal skins received from some 35 sealing vessels which it met, apparently by appointment. Those delivering their cargoes to the *Danube* were all British vessels. This partial enumeration for a small portion of the season confirms the opinion that the estimate of the number of seals taken illegitimately and irregularly during 1890, which is fixed at from 50,000 to 60,000, is not too large. (See Appendix D.) If, as is generally supposed, those captured in the sea represent only a small percentage of the seals actually killed, especially since the slaughter must of necessity be indiscriminate, the destruction to seal life is very great.

Since the agreement between the United States and Great Britain, of date June 15, 1891, was published, the waters of Bering Sea have been patrolled by 8 or more armed vessels, American and British, acting in concert to stop the depredations. At this writing two American schooners have been seized and brought to Sitka and duly libeled for forfeiture in the United States district court, and 1 British vessel has been sent to Victoria for proceedings in the English court. Of the results of previous seizures, it may be stated that during the year 2,468 seal skins which had been seized and declared forfeited by the court were sold at public auction in San Francisco, from which were realized \$24,256.37. The market value of seal skins has greatly increased since the excitement over the Bering Sea matter has been so great, owing largely, probably, to the smallness of the catch at the islands last year, and the increase in rates by the terms of the new lease of the islands.

EDUCATION.

The change in the system of management of the public schools in Alaska, by transferring the whole business from the Territory to the national capital, prevents access to the records and all possibility of a full statistical report. A general agent was appointed for the Territory as usual and a desk assigned him in the Bureau of Education at Washington, where he remained from the time of his return from a cruise in the Arctic last year until he came back to Alaska for another cruise in the Arctic in 1891, stopping only at convenient places during his passage. His return from the north is not expected until late in the fall, when it is supposed he will go east again. An assistant general agent was selected from among the clerks in the office of the Commissioner of Education, permanently located in Washington, who, it may be presumed, receives reports direct. But the information given does not become available to this office until too late for use, if indeed it is received at all.

Thirteen Government day schools have been in operation during the year, as follows, viz:

Location.	Teacher.	School.
Unalaska	John A. Tuck	Native.
Afognak	John Duff	Do.
Kadiak	W. E. Roscoe	Do.
Juneau No. 1.	Miss Rhoda Lee	White.
Juneau No. 2.	Mrs. Tozer	Native.
Douglas No. 1.	Mrs. W. S. Adams	White.
Douglas No. 2.	C. H. Edwards	Native.
Killisnoo	E. M. Calvin	Do.
Sitka No. 1.	Miss Cassia Patton	White.
Sitka No. 2.	Mrs. Vanderbilt	Native.
Wrangel	Mrs. W. G. Thomas	Do.
Klawak	Henry G. Wilson	Do.
Howkan	Mrs. Clara (Gould) McLeod	Do.

Ten of these schools are within the section known as southeastern Alaska. Schools were also authorized at Chilkat, Kake village, Unga, and perhaps at Belkofsky. At Kake the school house built during the year was not completed in time to secure a teacher for the school. A new house has also been erected at Chilkat to change the location of the school from the Haines mission to a more favorable one near the canneries. Complaints from residents of Chilkat, Unga, and Belkofsky that they have not received proper attention in the matter of schools, were referred to the general agent. Personal visits to nearly all of these schools have satisfied me that the teachers employed have performed their work conscientiously and well. In some places the Indian police system introduced last fall has been very helpful to the attendance. The want of a compulsory attendance law has not, however, ceased to be felt. For the amount of wages paid to teachers, statistics of attendance, and the general character of contracts with religious and mission schools during the year, reference is made to the Commissioner of Education. The general agent of education kindly furnished the information that, for the school year 1891-'92, Government day schools have been provided for, 1 each, at Karluk, Kadiak, Afognak, Chilkat, Killisnoo, Wrangel, Klawak, Howkan, Nutchek, Metlakahla, and Kake, and 2 each at Juneau, Douglas, and Sitka, 17 in all, an increase of 4 above the number in operation during 1890-'91, and that contracts have also been made with missions as follows, viz: Presbyterian at Point Barrow, Hoonah, and Sitka; Episcopalian, at Point Hope and Anvik; Congregational at Cape Prince of Wales; Reformed Episcopal at St. Lawrence Island; Roman Catholic at Nulato, Kofokurefsky, and Cape Vancouver; Swedish evangelical at Unalaklik and Yakutat; Methodist at Unalaska and Unga. There were several mission schools receiving Government aid last year, not given in this report, of those to be assisted for the next year. Why they were omitted in the contracts for the future is not stated. The North American Commercial Company employed teachers, one each, at St. Paul and St. George Islands, during 4 months last winter, presumably in fulfillment of their contract with the Government; for particulars, see discussion of the topic.—The Seal Islands.

It is safe to assert that the best work for the education and elevation of the natives of Alaska has, thus far, been done by the missions and churches. This statement is made in large measure from personal observation. Some of these schools have given me specific information in the form of written reports and in other cases verbal statements have been made. The two distinctively industrial schools are the Metla-

kahtla colony and the Sitka Industrial Training School. At the former place Mr. Duncan and his associates have organized the whole community, some 990 persons, into a training school with special features, the young only receiving book instruction, but all engaged in the various vocations of life and business under special tuition and care. They have a cannery in operation, a lumber mill, a store, transportation boats on a small scale, mechanics' tools, and the various appliances of civilized life. They are taught to keep the store, practical book keeping, to run the mill, to perform all the processes of preparing salmon for the market, to build houses, to cultivate their land, to organize and run their municipality, to manage the school and church meetings, and even to make speeches of welcome to officials and distinguished visitors.

These people dwell in frame houses, dress and appear like white people, have no chiefs, but elect a town council who have a general oversight of the settlement. The children are bright and are making considerable progress in education. During the next year their school is to rank as a government day school.

Prof. W. A. Kelly, who has had charge of the Sitka Industrial Training School, reports 20 teachers and assistants, and 140 pupils as an average attendance during the year. The school has made steady progress. Mr. Kelly's observation extends over a period of about 6 years, during which time he has been in charge, and his statement carries weight when he says:

The transformation of most pupils who have been in the school from 3 to 5 years is very gratifying. The girls, under vigilant training, become efficient in household work while the boys become skilled in manual trades. The training school is working a wonderful transformation. A retrospect of 6 years' work shows a surprising revelation and the beginning of a wonderful revolution—a revelation of their heathen customs, of their depths of degradation, their woful ignorance, their sensuality and great mortality—the harbinger of a revolution in their beliefs, customs, and manners of life.

Besides the schools in connection with the missions referred to there are also schools connected with Catholic, Episcopal, Moravian, and other denominational missions, and 17 parish schools of the orthodox Russian Church, of the condition of which it is impossible at this writing to secure very full information. The Sitka Russian Parish School has had about 30 pupils, and very satisfactory results have been observed.

A year's trial of the experiment in the management at present in force has confirmed the opinion heretofore expressed that the educational interests of Alaska demand a management of its schools at closer range than 4,000 miles of distance, with facilities of communication so poor that responses to inquiries and suggestions of needs can be obtained from headquarters only after an interval of from 6 weeks to 6 months. An advisory committee was appointed, but they have had no authority and very uncertain duties. We have had local committees in a few places, but they are without power even in the greatest emergencies, and there is no proper material for committees suitable to be intrusted with power, except in a very few towns.

It is a problem of unusual perplexity which is here presented for solution, and different persons might easily differ as to methods. A few essentials may perhaps be agreed upon. First, the management should be as nearly as possible local; second, it should be non-partisan and non-sectarian; third, those having charge should be competent and have some adaptation to educational work. Perhaps a Territorial board of public instruction, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, who, under the direction of the Commissioner of Education, should

have full control of all the Government schools and the expenditure of the public moneys, to whom the general agent, all superintendents, local committees, and teachers should report, and under whose immediate direction they should act, would meet the requirements of the situation. If not, some other plan embodying the above essentials ought to be devised. The requirements of other localities where different conditions exist constitute no guide for action in the case of Alaska, which is *sui generis*, and the questions to be decided should be approached with a full consideration and appreciation of the remoteness of the Territory, its isolation, the multifarious character of its people, and the fact that not less than a dozen religious societies are pressing for their share of Government funds to be distributed to contract schools.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The courts of Alaska consist of the United States district court, and four commissioners' courts, located at Sitka, Juneau, Wrangel, and Unalaska. The district court is, by the organic act, required to hold two terms in each year, one at Sitka beginning on the first Monday in May, and the other at Wrangel beginning on the first Monday in November, with special terms in the discretion of the judge. The business coming before this court, as a matter of fact, requires it to be kept open from one term to another, and recesses are taken from time to time as a relaxation of business allows. The regular terms have been held only at Sitka and Juneau, though it now seems that there ought to be a special term at Unalaska every year. The jail located at Sitka is insufficient for the requirements of the Territory, and the little lockups at Juneau and Wrangel can be used while prisoners are in transit only.

Statement of the business of the United States district court for the district of Alaska for the year ending June 30, 1891, kindly furnished by Mr. Peckinpugh, clerk of the court.

CIVIL CAUSES.

[Between individuals.]

Suits pending July 1, 1891.....	38
Suits begun during the year.....	37
	<hr/> 75
Causes disposed of—	
By dismissals.....	21
By trial by jury.....	5
By trial by the court.....	16
New trials granted.....	3
Finally disposed of.....	39
Pending June 30, 1891.....	36
	<hr/> 75
Judgments rendered—	
For plaintiffs.....	*16
For defendants.....	2

*Amounts, \$7,663.45.

[Between the United States and individuals.]

Suits pending July 1, 1890	2
Suits begun during the year	8
	<u>10</u>
Disposed of—	
By dismissals	2
By trial by jury	1
Pending June 30, 1891	7
	<u>10</u>
Judgments rendered for defendant	1

CRIMINAL CAUSES.

Indictment pending July 1, 1890—	
Murder (German)	1
Resisting officer (Indian)	1
	<u>2</u>
Indictments returned and filed—	
Murder:	
American	1
Russian	1
Indians	3
	<u>5</u>
Larceny (Indian)	1
Housebreaking (Russian)	1
Resisting officer (Chinaman)	3
Assault and battery with intent to kill (Irish-American)	1
Assault with dangerous weapon (Indians)	3
Assaulting an officer (Indian)	1
Extortion (German)	1
	<u>11</u>
Disposed of—	
By trial by jury:	
Convictions	5
Acquitted	6
	<u>11</u>
By trial by the court, convictions	6
Sentenced to prison at Sitka	2
Sentenced to penitentiary	5
Fine collected	\$5

FINANCIAL.

Receipts—	
On account of sale of sealskins (seizure 1889), net	\$21,370.56
On account of fines and forfeitures:	
United States commissioners	541.00
United States district court	5.00
Total	<u>21,916.56</u>
Expenditures:	
Deposit to credit Treasurer United States	18,454.28
Miscellaneous expenses	2,741.50
Balance in registry of court	670.78
Total	<u>21,916.56</u>

Net amount realized from sale of vessels, arms, ammunition, and seal-skins on account poachers in Bering Sea:

Seizures of 1889.....	21,370.56
Seizures, previous years..	24,933.35
Total.....	46,303.91
Amount of costs, expenses, and officers' fees incurred and paid over on account of such seizures and sales of vessels, sealskins, etc.:	
Seizure, 1889.....	2,885.81
Seizure, previous years.....	13,735.50
Total.....	16,621.31

Statement of causes in United States commissioner's court, at Juneau, Alaska, during the year ending June 30, 1891.

Disturbing the peace (drunk and disorderly)	109
Larceny	17
Furnishing liquor to Indians	13
Examinations.....	6
Coroner's inquest	1
Civil cases tried.....	37
Criminal cases tried.....	145
Convictions.....	112
Acquittals	27
Examinations.....	6

Statement of causes in the United States commissioner's court at Sitka during the year.

Disturbing the public peace and disorderly:	
Indians.....	9
Russians.....	9
Irishmen.....	1
Assault and battery:	
Indians.....	11
Russians.....	4
Americans	2
Larceny:	
Indians	6
Russians.....	3
Selling liquor to Indians:	
Indians.....	1
Russians.....	3
Americans	6
Chinese.....	8

Convicted: Disturbing the public peace and disorderly conduct, 19; assault and battery, 12; larceny, 8; selling liquor to Indians, 12.

Acquitted: Assault and battery, 4; larceny, 1; selling liquor to Indians, 4.

One prosecution was compromised. One action was brought against three sailors for desertion, two of whom were convicted and the other avoided arrest. One action is still pending against an apprentice of the industrial training school. Of actions not within the jurisdiction of the commissioner for assault with dangerous weapon there were Indians 3 and Russian 1, of whom 2 were held. The other 2 avoided arrest. There were also 2 forfeitures of bail of those charged with selling liquor to Indians.

Statement of causes in United States commissioner's court at Wrangel for the year ending June 30, 1891.

CAUSES TRIED.

Drunk and disorderly:

Indians.....	16
French.....	1
English.....	1
Selling whisky to Indians:	
Russian.....	1
Chinamen.....	2
French.....	1
Indians.....	3
Total.....	25

Convictions:

Drunk and disorderly.....	14
Selling whisky to Indians.....	7
Total.....	21

Acquittals.....	4
Civil suits.....	4

The commissioner at Unalaska reports but 1 case during the year, and that was a complaint for murder, in which the defendant, an American, was held for trial.

Report of the United States prisoners confined in the United States jail at Sitka, Alaska, during the year ending June 30, 1891.

In jail July 1, 1890.....	13
Received from July 1, 1890, to June 30, 1891.....	81
In jail during the year.....	94
Discharged from July 1, 1890, to June 30, 1891.....	81
Remaining in jail June 30, 1891.....	13
Total.....	94

Social relations:

Married.....	32
Single.....	62
Total.....	94

Sex:

Male.....	83
Female.....	11
Total.....	94

Color:

White.....	41
Indians.....	45
Chinese.....	8
Total.....	94

Offenses:

Murder.....	3
Manslaughter.....	3
Assault with a dangerous weapon.....	5
Assault with an intent to injure.....	2
Resisting a United States officer.....	3

Burglary	2
Rape	1
Adultery	1
Grand larceny	2
Petit larceny	11
Violation of internal-revenue laws	6
Attempt to assault	1
Assault and battery	12
Selling liquor to Indians	19
Drunk and disorderly and outraging public decency	20
Desertion	2
Insanity	1
Total	94
Serving sentence	85
Awaiting examinations or trial	9
Total	94
Per diem charge for subsistence, 70 cents.	

Disbursements by the United States marshal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891.

Appropriations:	
Fees of jurors	\$5,527.00
Fees of witnesses	6,846.05
Pay of bailiffs	299.50
Support of prisoners	11,190.73
Miscellaneous expenses	2,697.76
Fees and expenses, marshal	2,485.00
29,046.04	

Of the criminal business a large proportion was either directly connected with the sale and importation of intoxicating liquor or grew out of its use, directly or indirectly. The unfortunate conditions of nonenforcement of the laws on these subjects reported last year are still continued, and the results of efforts to enforce them are no less unfortunate. In order to bring the information in its details before the executive and legislative departments of the Government I addressed a letter of inquiry to the United States district attorney asking a report of matters connected with the business of his office during the year ending June 30, 1891, especially, among other inquiries, asking what steps had been taken to enforce the law against the sale of intoxicating liquors within the Territory and what is the present status of things in relation to its violation within the district. His reply is appended hereto as Appendix B.

The laws of the Territory seem to impose duties, in relation to the different phases of the liquor business, upon three or more different officers. First, the collector of customs is required to use his utmost endeavors to prevent its importation into the Territory. None is allowed to be landed except with a permit from him, and in the exercise of his discretion in giving such permits he is accountable only to the executive department of the National Government; and I have no information or means of knowing to what extent or how wisely such discretion has been exercised. Secondly, the governor is required, in the exercise of a sound discretion, to issue licenses for the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for the uses allowed by law to such persons as he deems it wise and necessary. Up to the time of writing the last annual report the present incumbent had issued no license, because no application had conformed to the requirements made, and it

was so stated in the report. During the past year five licenses to sell for the uses allowed by law were issued, three to parties residing in Juneau and two to parties residing in Wrangel. Two of these licenses have expired by the original limitations and three are still in force. Thirdly, it is the duty of the courts to impose the penalties authorized by law upon all offenders. The United States district attorney as public prosecutor has duties in the way of initiating proceedings for the enforcement of the law against selling, manufacturing, and importing intoxicating liquors without authority, and as to his action his report is the best exposition. If private citizens who take upon themselves the responsibility of forwarding complaints of official delinquencies and of making criticising statements for the public press would remember their obligations as citizens to conform to the laws and assist in their enforcement there would be less occasion for deprecating the failure of justice in the Territory.

The importance of better transportation facilities for the administration of the government and the enforcement of the laws has been freshly illustrated by the experiences of the past year. In a number of instances persons charged with crime have not been arrested for want of facilities for travel and transportation for officers, defendants, and witnesses. In other cases greater expense has been incurred than would have been necessary if a vessel had been provided for the use of the Territorial administration. At every regular term of the court the expense of transporting court officers, jurors, and Government witnesses to and from the place of holding the session is no unimportant item, but for some unexplained reason the last Congress declined to intrust the Territorial government with a vessel for transportation purposes and the only relief now suggesting itself is the detail of a revenue cutter for use in Alaska to combine the service of the customs department with that of transportation for general purposes in the administration of the Territorial government. A naval vessel stationed in these waters does not meet all the requirements of the situation. War ships are scarcely adapted to transportation business because their space is too much taken up in supplying accommodations for their regular crews, and their business is war, not transportation. The want of flexibility in the naval service does not in any way militate against its usefulness for its legitimate work, but it does operate to prevent the best results when other work than that in its line is required. The revenue marine is in the civil service. It is organized for the purpose of assisting the civil government; and the need of additional facilities for enforcing the revenue laws in Alaska is most pressing. The temptation for unprincipled men to engage in smuggling intoxicating liquor and opium into this Territory is very great; and yet the collector of customs, upon whom is laid the duty of preventing it, has been furnished with only a single rowboat with which to patrol and guard 3,000 miles of coast line. He has also other duties which require traveling facilities. It is made his duty to enforce the law against the barricading of streams to prevent salmon from ascending to their spawning grounds. These streams are innumerable and remote from lines of commercial traveling and out of the way of ordinary communication. This whole territory is innocent of carriage and railroads and the only means of travel are found in our intricate system of water ways. How, then, with his present facilities, can he be expected to perform the responsible duties of his office?

The organic act of May 17, 1884, provided for only 4 commissioners to perform the judicial functions of petty courts and courts of probate

for the whole of this vast territory, with its 33,000 people, located in more than 200 towns and villages, scattered all over this vast domain. They are by law so strictly located that even a temporary removal from their fixed habitation, without a special authorization from Washington, is liable to be construed into a breach of duty. During the 7 years since the passage of this act the utter inadequacy of this provision for the protection of the people and their interests has been repeatedly reported and urgent appeals have been made for relief. So important has it seemed for the preservation of the public peace that there should be some authority to enforce it in places remote from the residences of the commissioners that Congress has been requested to legalize the appointment of justices of the peace, without compensation. But never a word or syllable, not even of inquiry into the necessity for legislation, has been heard in the halls of the national legislature. A well-known rule in physics needs but a slight modification to illustrate. In the apparent estimation of the legislative mind the lives and property rights of human beings are held of importance in the adverse ratio of the square of the distance.

It is conceded that an attempt to cover the whole district with jurisdictions of local petty courts by a single enactment would be folly, but as the country develops and the native population becomes educated up to the idea of submitting to legal process and judicial decision, additional tribunals should be furnished. At the present time there is a crying need of at least 3 commissioners in addition to those already authorized, and more are desirable. Kadiak, Unga, and St. Michaels are central points about which are grouped business enterprises which employ large numbers of men and from which supplies are distributed to miners, fishermen, hunters, traders, and the native people of wide sections of the country. Many other places, like Chilkat, Klawak, Howkan, Yakutat, Nutchek, Kenai, Carmel, Bethel, Point Hope, and Anvik, ought at least to have legally constituted justices, constables, and lockups.

In response to my request Judge Bugbee, of the United States district court, has made some very valuable suggestions upon the legal complications of our present law and procedure, and of remedial legislation needed, which I have attached hereto as Appendix C. The district attorney's letter, Appendix B, heretofore referred to, also gives a carefully digested résumé of these matters, both of which ought to receive candid consideration. The importance of modifying the methods of drawing juries, of changing the requirements as to legal qualifications, of reducing the number requisite to constitute a legal grand jury, can not be overestimated. No careful observer, with opportunities for seeing the serious deficiencies of our cast iron code, which, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, changes not, though conditions of life and business in the Territory are continually changing, can fail to comprehend the fact that a complete revision of our laws is absolutely essential to the proper protection of the people and their rights, and the development of the vast natural resources of the country. Four methods of reaching the desired results have been discussed or suggested, of course through legislation. Some think that a full territorial government ought to be given with the machinery for elections, a territorial legislature, territorial courts, a delegate in Congress, and a national appropriation to defray expenses. It may be premised in the beginning that without such appropriation the territory could never survive its first anniversary without bankruptcy, since most of the business is done by foreign firms and corporations and the products of

the fisheries and mines and other business enterprises are exported before an assessment could be made, and there will be very little real or personal property in the country for some years. Besides, the influential parties interested in western Alaska are not likely to look favorably upon such a proposition, and, whether desirable or not, such a consummation is not likely to be realized.

Others propose a code especially adapted to the needs of Alaska, embracing such additions of governmental machinery as may be required. This proposition commends itself to very many of the people of the Territory as the best thing at present attainable. It is true that when once launched it would be inflexible until further legislation could be secured, which, the experience of the past teaches us, is not always to be had on call. But present relief is always grateful.

Others still advocate continuing the effort to mend up our present inconsistency by adding here and subtracting there, until we secure beauty and symmetry in a system of patchwork, all of which would be well enough if within the range of possibilities. But when we realize that the only legislation we have been able to obtain from Congress in 7 years having anything like a general application was the town site and land bill, and consider that this bill aims rather to meet the wants of business firms than the requirements of individual settlers, a sense of hopelessness as to success in the patchwork business comes over us.

The fourth and last proposition is that a commission largely local in its make-up be appointed by the President and vested with authority and charged with the duty of making regulations in minor matters pertaining to the government of the Territory, which, subject to the approval of the President, shall have the force and authority of law until action disapproving the same shall be taken by Congress in the ordinary forms of legislation. That said commission should assign boundaries to civil and political divisions within the Territory when not otherwise assigned; have appellate jurisdiction to locate streets and highways; constitute a board of public instruction, and as such have immediate control of educational matters and the expenditure of moneys appropriated for schools, subject however to the approval of the Commissioner of Education; constitute a board of appeal on questions of local taxation and voting rights; to make regulations for the preservation of the public health; to determine the location of cemeteries; to be *ex officio* a board of public charities; to make an annual report to Congress, and perform any other duty assigned to it by that body.

Such a commission would only be useful to meet emergencies of neglect or failure on the part of the National Government to provide suitable laws, and only temporary at that. Just as soon as the law-making power of the United States took action, the temporary regulation of the commission would cease to have force, and the commission itself would disappear on the complete organization of the Territory. Whether or not the commission would work a benefit to Alaska depends very largely upon the care and wisdom bestowed upon the drawing of the bill and the selection of the men to constitute commission.

These several propositions are submitted for what they are worth. That something should be done, and that speedily, is the opinion of all who are conversant with the perplexing situation.

SETTLEMENT OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

A report of the business of the local land office at Sitka for the year ending June 30, 1891, shows:

Applications for patents for mineral lands pending July 1, 1890.....	1
Applications filed during the year.....	10
Adverse claims—	
Pending July 1, 1890.....	1
Filed during the year.....	7
Dismissed.....	1
Patents issued during the year.....	4
Applications for which purchase money was paid during the year.....	11
Amount of purchase money paid.....	\$2,307.50

The foregoing formal entries in the land office indicate a settled purpose to purchase and secure titles. A much larger number of preliminary notices of claim to mineral lands have been filed in the several recording districts. After the first notice is filed and the claim staked off, a certain amount of assessment work, as it is called, is done upon the ground in development or improvements, and the rights of the claimant are preserved until he is ready to make his purchase of the Government.

Under the act of March 3, 1891, entitled "An act to repeal the timber-culture laws, and for other purposes," opportunities are offered to purchase certain amounts of land for the purposes of manufacturing and other business, but at this writing no completed purchase has been made. A number of applications have been filed with the marshal, but they are incomplete and imperfect, and they must be modified before final action. An application for survey of the outlying boundaries for a town site is also awaiting certain necessary formalities. When methods of procedure under the law are established and known, it is expected that applications will be frequent. It is too early for judgment upon the merits of the law, but we may hope for good results and that it will prove to be a powerful impetus toward the development of the country, though it must be admitted that its provisions are, in some respects, disappointing, to say the least. The town-site law ought to be supplemented with further legislation providing for municipal corporations and giving them power of local taxation, the control of the public streets, of making regulations for internal police, and other powers and privileges essential to good municipal government. There should also be a definition of the qualifications required for voting privileges.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The buildings owned by the Government in this district and used for public purposes may be enumerated as follows, to wit:

Wrangel.—A large building occupied by the Government school, commissioner's court room and office, and a post-office—needing repairs; a dwelling house occupied by the commissioner and the deputy collector of customs for residence—needing repairs; a small building, formerly a dwelling house, now fitted up as jail or lockup.

Howkan.—Schoolhouse, in fair condition.

Juneau.—Schoolhouse, in good condition; old barracks building, worthless; three dwelling houses, in doubt as to the right of possession because of the variance in different judicial decisions affecting them.

Klawak.—Schoolhouse.

Kake Village.—Schoolhouse.

Chilkat.—Schoolhouse, unfinished.

Killsnoo.—Schoolhouse, in good condition.

Douglas.—Two schoolhouses, in good condition.

Sitka.—Custom-house, occupied for executive, clerks', and collector's offices, and residence of collector—needing repairs; barracks building, occupied as jail, United States court room, barracks for marines, and residences of marshal, judge, and district attorney—needing repairs; old governor's house, occupied by commissioner for court room and residence—very much dilapidated; warehouse and wharf—warehouse in good condition, wharf needing repairs; naval warehouse, occupied as a sick bay and for storage—fair condition; club house, rented—very much dilapidated; printing office, rented—poor condition; three dwelling houses, all needing repairs, and several other worthless structures; two schoolhouses, in good condition.

Kadiak.—Schoolhouse.

Afognak.—Schoolhouse.

Unga.—Schoolhouse.

Unalaska.—Coal house, capacity 1,000 tons, good condition. Custom-house, 18 by 24, with leanto 6 feet. Not in a condition for occupancy without repairs.

Point Barrow.—Relief Station.

Most of the buildings at Wrangel and Sitka belong to the times of the old Russian régime and some of them date back to near the beginning of the century. The better way to repair them might be to replace them with new ones; but if they are to be continued and used, early attention is important. It is a sentiment universally shared that the old Russian governor's residence ought to be rehabilitated and preserved as a relic of the past, and at the same time made useful for official residences or other Government purposes. At Juneau there should be a new court-house with jail, and also office accommodations for all the Government officers. Another schoolhouse is also needed. Jails ought to be provided for Douglas, Chilkat, Kadiak, Sand Point, St. Michaels, and other places. It is earnestly requested that a competent person from the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department be sent here to inspect and report upon the condition and needs of the public buildings in the Territory, and that he come armed with discretionary power to proceed with the work of repairs or building, so far as the known conditions warrant, and that he be instructed to report as to other matters. The longer the delay the greater the difficulty and expense. I desire to renew my recommendation that the Government wharf at Sitka be either opened up to the free use of the people, or at least that the fee charged for wharfage be very much reduced, so that the income would only be sufficient to keep the wharf in repair.

AGRICULTURE AND STOCK-RAISING.

No experiments have been tried in the cultivation of the soil of Alaska during the past year, except on the most limited scale of vegetable gardening. Fine gardens were reported in the vicinity of Juneau, in which potatoes, turnips, cabbages, cauliflowers, beets, carrots, parsnips, radishes, peas, lettuce, celery, parsley, and onions were raised with entire success. The amount of ground used for the cultivation of these root crops and vegetables in and about Sitka and other places in southeastern Alaska has been increasing steadily for several years, and the results year by year grow more satisfactory as the conditions of soil and climate are better understood. The potato bug and other pests, so

troublesome in the States, have not thus far been observed here. Strawberries have been very fine during the past season, and the quantities of salmon and huckleberries marketed by the native women have been simply enormous. All the usual edible berries of this country have been abundant. The number of cattle in the Territory has not materially changed since the last report. At Unalaska 26 head of cattle are reported, all thriving, the young cattle needing no feed in winter. At Kadiak and vicinity are reported 210 cattle, 37 hogs, 50 sheep, 6 horses, 6 goats, 40 black foxes. Chickens are raised by many of the natives with satisfaction and profit, selling for from 75 cents to \$1 each. Eggs are from 30 to 60 cents, according to the season. In the Kadiak district there is market for about 250 dressed beeves per year, at from 10 to 20 cents per pound. This country is said to be adapted to stock-raising. The winters are mild and the grass grows to such height that it is not covered by snow. Only old cows require any feed in winter. Steers and young cows remain in condition for beef the whole year. Sheep keep fat enough for mutton without hay or other feed except such as they secure for themselves in the pasture. Fresh pork brings 25 cents per pound and is not abundant. The native cattle are small and hardy. To secure the best results, all the stock should be housed and fed and improved stock imported. Some attention has already been given to this matter. A native last year sold a 3-year old steer, which had never been fed, for \$75 dressed, which was, of course, clear profit. The only reason assigned for the small amount of stock now in the country is that the natives are lazy and improvident and usually find themselves unable to wait until their animals mature. Mr. Tolman, late deputy collector at Kadiak, now at Wrangel, writes that—

Places are numerous where a person could raise from 200 to 500 head of cattle and a few places where the range would accommodate larger numbers. Wild grass can be cut for hay at most places where the ground is level enough to admit it. The growth is from 2 to 7 feet high, sometimes very thick, and composed of wild timothy and something similar to red top, and cattle prefer hay made from this grass to that imported from California.

At Sitka there are from 30 to 50 head of cattle, horses, hogs, and mules. They are fed during a portion of the winter. The markets in southeastern Alaska are mostly supplied from the States by the mail steamer. Prices of meats are higher than at Kadiak. The areas of grass land are smaller and not overnumerous, while the demand for meat is much greater than in western portions of the Territory. On the Kenai Peninsula there are quite extensive areas of pasture land, and agricultural pursuits have been followed for more than a century on a limited scale.

Reports from explorers who went into the interior from Chilkat the present season, taking horses for packing purposes, indicate fine prospects for limited farming and stock raising, and give the impression that the mosquito pest which has been so much feared will eventually be overcome; and that when the local demand is sufficient the country will be utilized for the supply of that demand.

From Wrangel it is reported that there is a fine meadow of 1,000 acres near that place, and that all the hardier berries are cultivated, while there are no less than nine varieties of edible wild berries of fine flavor and in great abundance.

From Chilkat comes the statement that land suitable for cultivation is plentiful, and crops that will grow and mature are enumerated as oats, barley, rye, beans, peas, potatoes, onions, radishes, cabbage, lettuce, timothy, and all kinds of small fruits. (See Appendix G.)

From Hoonah come similar statements, except that it is said "pasture and hay facilities, though good, are limited."

From a large number of reports from different sections of the country where different conditions are known to exist, some of which are more enthusiastic than these and others much less so, the deduction must be drawn that the agricultural and stock-raising facilities of the Territory are not unimportant or small, but that the conditions of soil and climate and the topography of the country are such that development must necessarily be slow; and that it is not likely to compete with States more favored in situation and climate in the general markets of the world for many years to come, if it ever does.

COMMERCE.

The commerce of Alaska is so largely carried on by temporary inhabitants and nonresidents, in such unusual and concealed methods, that it is especially difficult to obtain full information in regard to it. The transportation of imports and exports is partly accomplished through the agency of regular transportation lines, but to a much larger extent by the aid of special conveyances and through the mails. The internal commerce of the Territory has its more ostensible agencies in some eighty-seven trading houses located in not less than sixty towns and villages, on continent and island, from Point Barrow to the southern extremity, and from Loring to Attu. These houses are supplemented by the more picturesque Indian trader with his or her outfit and wares planted by the roadside, filling up the sidewalk, or exchanging for blankets among themselves. The Eskimo fair on Kotzebue Sound is a busy mart during the season of it—each summer. The Chilkat and Chilcoot traders, though doing less business than formerly, serve as middlemen for a considerable trade between the interior Indians and the coast tribes. The family canoe is a favorite exchange bazar. A hundred or two miles of canoe paddling, consuming days and even weeks of time, constitute no preventing impediment to commercial enterprises which involve only the value of a few peltries and their supposed equivalent of tobacco and blankets.

The trade of western Alaska and the Bering Sea and Yukon regions has for more than 20 years past been mostly in the control of the Alaska Commercial Company, who had the lease of the seal islands. They still retain most of their trading posts, but do not hold the trade so exclusively as formerly. Their general agent resides at Unalaska. Their business is organized in several divisions. The Unalaska division embraces stations at Unga, Belkofsky, Woznesensky, Marshovoi, Sanak, Akutan, Burkhia, Makushin, Chernofsky, Kashega, Umnak, Atka, and Attu.

The Nushegak division has three principal stations, all on Bristol Bay, viz: Nushegak, Ugashuk, and Togiak, and three or four minor stations up the rivers.

The Kushkoquim division has three principal stations on the bay and river of that name.

The Yukon district is operated from the principal station at St. Michaels, and the minor stations located along the great river are independent trading stations and the trade is carried on in the nature of a wholesale house with its retail clients, but without the disadvantages to the wholesale establishment of competition.

The Kadiak division embraces the islands of that group, the Kenai Peninsula, the Prince William Sound, and Copper River regions.

This company employs in its business, which embraces in addition to its fur and supply trade a number of canneries, the steamers *St. Paul* and *Dora*, and schooners *Kadiak*, *Pearl*, and *Matthew Turner*, besides its fishing outfits.

The importations by the Alaska Commercial Company for the Unalaska, Nushegak, and Kushkoqwin divisions in 1890 amounted to \$97,550.04, and for the Yukon and Kadiak divisions perhaps \$150,000. The imports to the seal islands was not far from \$38,000 annually while in charge of the Alaska Commercial Company. The new company has not reported.

Other large companies doing business in western Alaska are the McCollam Fishing and Trading Company, with headquarters in Alaska, at Pirate Cove; Lynde & Hough, with headquarters at Sand Point. These firms have a number of out-stations, and employed in 1890 schooners *Ozar*, *Dashing Wave*, *John Hancock*, *Arago*, *Vanderbilt*, *J. A. Falkenburg*, and *Fremont*. Their importations included supplies for their own use and for stores located at their places of business.

All the canneries of western Alaska were supplied with material and provisions by special conveyance, usually their own ships, employing in all 22 vessels not named in the foregoing list.

In southeastern Alaska the carrying business has been largely but not entirely done by the Pacific Coast Steamship Company. The imports into this section, so far as they have been definitely ascertained, amount to \$1,517,000. This does not include certain small items like mail packages and irregular transportation. If we allow \$450,000 to cover importations by these 22 cannery vessels and other means of transportation, we have an aggregate of \$2,252,550 imported into the Territory in 1890. It is likely that the estimate of the last item is too small, since Government vessels have in large measure carried their own supplies, and 41 whaling ships took not only supplies for their own use, but large quantities of trade goods, and even the sealing fleet, not less than 43 in number, must have taken with them goods and provisions of considerable value.

The products exported during the year are computed accurately so far as possible, and when estimated it is so stated. They are as follows:

688,332 cases of salmon	\$2,753,328.00
4,150 pounds ivory	9,507.50
231,282 pounds whalebone	1,503,333.00
14,890 gallons whale oil	4,467.00
Product of the Killisnoo manufactory	76,000.00
1,138,000 pounds codfish	569,000.00
7,300 barrels salted salmon (estimated)	73,000.00
Gold and silver bullion (estimated)	1,000,000.00
21,596 fur-seal skins taken under lease (estimated)	647,880.00
60,000 fur-seal skins taken by poachers (estimated)	1,800,000.00
Other furs and skins from southeastern Alaska (estimated)	100,000.00
Other furs from western, northern, and central Alaska (estimated)	350,000.00
Curios, bric-a-brac, etc. (estimated)	25,000.00
Other products not enumerated (estimated)	30,000.00
Total	8,941,515.50

On this basis it would seem that the exports exceeded the imports by \$6,688,965.50.

TAXABLE PROPERTY.

It is scarcely necessary to discuss this topic, since the true condition of affairs is readily inferable from the statements of business and the references to real property to be found elsewhere in this report. But

legislation is sometimes demanded of Congress which raises questions of financial ability on the part of the people of the Territory, and it may be well to make a general statement under this caption.

Distinction ought to be made, as it is not always, between wealth, the developed resources, and the undeveloped resources of a country. However rich in possibilities it may be, unless there is an accumulation of wealth, possibilities reduced to actualities, its power to carry financial burdens may be small indeed. Such is the condition of Alaska at the present time. None of its products are retained within its borders. Its annual exports exceed its imports by nearly \$7,000,000. Its manufacturing and producing business is carried on with foreign capital, and with imported laborers, who leave the country as soon as the season's work is done. Its carrying business is done with foreign ships. No roads are built, no telegraph lines established, no permanent buildings erected, no money spent in the Territory except to carry on business with a view to the greatest immediate profit. Nothing is left in the country which can be carried away. The wealth acquired by the foreign owners of business here is only accessible where they reside. Titles to land have been withheld from actual settlers until the law of March 3, 1891, and under that law no lands have yet been taken. Hence we have very little taxable property in Alaska. The actual residents are far from being wealthy and few of them contemplate making Alaska their permanent home. Those who are thrifty and acquire something ahead proceed to put it into undeveloped mining property or invest it elsewhere, while a much larger number of the residents of the country are shiftless and improvident and acquire nothing. Some of them are natural frontier men, moving forward to newer fields as soon as one place in which they have temporarily located becomes too old and too much civilized for their tastes, accumulating no property and establishing no permanent homes. Others care only for the gratification of their appetites and the cheapest kind of clothing, and have no ambition to take a higher place in life. Whether the cause of these unfortunate conditions lies at the door of insufficient and unwise legislation or elsewhere may be left to the philosopher to determine.

FISH AND FISHERIES.

Among the resources of Alaska, and none are more important, are the products of the sea. The native population have always obtained much of their food supply from the waters and in a less degree their clothing and many of the conveniences of life. Their winter supply of food is still largely made up of dried fish, seaweed, and fish eggs, while fresh fish are eaten at all seasons of the year, not only by the natives but by all classes of people, and the abundance of this product insures the most thriftless with a ready means of subsistence.

Salmon fishing is by far the largest and most important industry. Thirty-seven canneries and 7 or more salting establishments are reported as in operation in 1890. The aggregate pack of the canneries was 688,332 cases of 4 dozen 1-pound cans, falling a little short of the pack of 1889. The amount of salted salmon was about 7,300 barrels, a little more than the year previous. These salmon fisheries represent a capital of about \$4,250,000, and they give employment to about 2,000 white laborers, 2,500 Chinamen, and 1,000 natives, and require in their business, for transportation and their work, about 100 steam vessels and 500 fishing boats. The white and Chinese laborers do not

usually remain in the Territory after the season is over. A better idea of the business and the conditions surrounding a cannery in Alaska may be obtained from Superintendent Murray's report, hereto annexed as Appendix G. Below is given a comparative statement of the canned product since 1883, viz:

Year.	Total pack.	Year.	Total pack.
	<i>Cases.</i>		<i>Cases.</i>
1883.....	35,000	1888.....	439,293
1884.....	45,000	1889.....	702,993
1885.....	74,800	1890.....	688,332
1886.....	120,700		
1887.....	190,000	Total.....	2,297,118

Allowing the average value of salmon during these years to have been \$4.50 per case, we have a total valuation of \$10,337,031 for this one export since the industry took this form in Alaska. Add to this sum the value of the salted salmon exported, and the amount used in the Territory, if that were possible, and the grand total would surprise those who have not given the subject a study.

The whaling business, carried on by the San Francisco and New Bedford fleets of 41 vessels, in 1890 resulted in a catch of 231,282 pounds of whalebone, 4,150 pounds of ivory, and 14,890 gallons of oil, worth \$1,517,307.50, all in waters adjacent or belonging to Alaska. The total catch for the last 15 years foots up 4,745,700 pounds of whalebone, 217,410 pounds of ivory, and 306,689 gallons of oil, of the total value of \$24,499,031.70.

The next important fishing industry in Alaska is the codfish business, carried on by two San Francisco firms at the Shumagin Islands and in the Bering Sea. The catch of 1890 amounted to a total of 1,138,000 fish, of the value of \$569,000. Since the beginning of the codfishing business in this Territory in 1865 the total number of fish taken is 25,723,300, of the value of \$12,861,650. The first 4 years the business did not come near to its present proportions.

That the codfishing business in Alaskan waters has not reached its proper proportions has long been known. But the extent and value of the banks were unknown until systematic investigations were made by the U. S. Fish Commission within the last few years. From its report it appears that there is a bank, called Potlatch Bank, extending north-easterly from the eastern end of Kadiak Island about 115 miles. Shumagin Bank, from 10 to 40 miles south of the Shumagin Islands, has an area of about 4,400 square miles. Albatross Bank, off the south-eastern side of Kadiak, has an area of 3,700 square miles. Davidson Bank, southeast of Unimak Island and west of Sannak, has an area of 1,600 square miles. The Sannak Bank, southeast of Sannak, has about 1,300 square miles. In Bering Sea the finest cod are taken, but the boundaries of the banks are not defined. Codfish are known to abound off the shore west of Bristol Bay for more than 100 miles, and about 20 miles north of Unimak Pass eastward to Bristol Bay. Fairweather ground also gives evidence of the presence of these fish in large numbers. In several localities in southeastern Alaska cod are caught for local use, but no careful investigation has been made of the grounds with reference to a determination of the extent and value of the banks.

Herring fishing is made a business of importance only by the Alaska Oil and Guano Company at Killisnoo, and an interesting report of that

business by the president of the company, Mr. Carl Spuhn, is attached hereto as Appendix F. Herring are very plentiful in many localities. As a matter of experiment, Captain Brightman, of the Killisnoo company, came to Sitka last winter and filled his fishing scows with two hauls of his net, one of which yielded 1,500 barrels of the fish. The presence in large numbers of porpoises, sharks, halibut, and other large fish seen in various places by casual observers discloses the presence also of immense schools of herring upon which these large fish feed.

Among the food fishes most in use by the natives is the halibut. They dry them for winter use to some extent, but can usually secure all they want fresh at every season of the year. It is also much in demand for the tables of the white people. They are frequently taken of very large size, weighing more than 200 pounds, but those weighing from 50 to 150 pounds each are preferred. These fish are plentiful all along the coast from Dixons entrance to Attu Island, and when transportation facilities are better and nearer markets are found halibut fishing will become an important industry.

The yellow fish, or Alaska mackerel, as it is sometimes called, is a fine-flavored fish, fully equal to the mackerel in quality. Large schools of them are found near the Shumagin Islands and in Bering Sea for 500 miles along the west end of the Aleutian chain of islands. No regular business in taking them has been developed. Some lots have been sold in the San Francisco markets as high as \$28 per barrel.

Large quantities of eulachon are taken by the natives, in the season, and dried for winter use. This is a very fat and finely flavored small fish and appears only at certain seasons and then in immense quantities. As a food fish it is very much liked by many people.

Many other kinds of fishes are abundant, as black bass, sea and brook trout, redfish, capelin, octopus, porpoise, shark, dogfish, etc.

MINES AND MINERALS.

While it was not the mines and minerals of Alaska that first called attention to the remarkable features and characteristics of this country, the discovery of gold has had great influence in its progress and development. Our mineral resources are the subject of more discussion and still create a greater fever of excitement than any other. Furs first attracted the emigrant, and the fur business may still be considered its leading industry. The fishing interests come second, and raise the question by their magnitude and importance whether they should not be held first in estimation. After furs and fisheries statistics give mining the chief place in Alaska's industries, and the confident expectation in the minds of many people that mining interests will soon lead all others is certainly supported by numerous and suggestive indications of great wealth. Many discoveries of rich ore and placer deposits have been made within the year, and locations by scores have been recorded in the local recording districts. Eleven applications for patents of mining claims have been filed in the land office and assessment work has been done on hundreds of prospectors' claims. Placer mining has shown no abatement, and in 1890 the Yukon placers are said to have yielded a third more gold than in any other previous year. Hydraulic mining on a more extensive scale than formerly promises better results. The tunnel of the Silver Bow Basin Mining Company at Juneau has been completed and the washing of the rich deposit has been in operation for some months. The success of the enterprise is apparent, but the results in statistics do not belong in this report. At Latuya

Bay the cleanup for the last season was so satisfactory that a much larger force has been carrying on the work the present season. The managers are reticent as to the exact results. At Shuck are three principal basins filled with deposits of gravel, which appears to be rich in mineral. It is owned by the Shuck Bay Placer Mining Company. The lower basin has been tapped by a tunnel 700 feet in length, and the work of washing has begun. No cleanup had been made at last advices. Work has also been commenced upon the upper basins. The company is confident. The work at Sumdum has been carried on for some years in a desultory way with a degree of success which warrants belief in the value of the mines. Tunnels have been commenced at Salmon Creek, near Juneau, and at Sheep Creek only a little farther away, and ore of excellent quality taken out. A mill with ten stamps has been built at the latter place within the year. The Archie Campbell Mill was kept in operation during a large portion of the year. The Treadwell Mill and Mining Company have continued work to their full capacity, with results as satisfactory as ever. The 80-stamp mill of the defunct Bear's Nest Company has been divided up and removed to other places, where it will be of service. The Fuhter Bay Mine on Admiralty Island has continued its usual activity. Operations at Berner's Bay have been somewhat limited. More activity has been manifested in the Silver Bay district, near Sitka, several mines neglected for some time having been worked again. The work has, however, been on a limited scale, and it is too early to discuss results.

A comparatively new mining enterprise is the Apollo Consolidated Mining Company T. C. Mayon manager, at Unga. On the 1st of May last their tunnel had reached the extent of 900 feet, a 5-stamp mill had been erected and used sufficiently to test the ore. The mill has 5 stamps, 4 amalgamators, 1 grinding pan, 1 improved Frue concentrator, a 50 horse-power engine, and buildings enough to greatly increase its working capacity by more machinery. The tunnel work thus far has been mainly preparatory and to discover the value of the mine. The assayer gives the highest encouragement and the company have a right to expect a return of their investment at an early day. Fifteen mills for crushing ore and having the conveniences for securing the free gold and obtaining the sulphurets in a compact form for shipment represent the sum of this form of equipment in Alaska. Several mills have also amalgamators and chlorination works. Fourteen mills were reported last year, two have been since erected, and one (the Bear's Nest) dismantled. The number of stamps in the aggregate has increased from 525 to 540. Several of the small mills have not been in operation during the year.

The production of gold and silver in Alaska has been both overestimated and underestimated. Those who assume that the whole output is shipped to the mint direct and consequently reported, place the amount at \$800,000, which, certainly, is much too small an estimate. The estimate used in this report, \$1,000,000, is probably less than the amount actually produced. Successful business of all kinds is more likely to seek concealment than publicity, as to exact results, and the opportunities of individual placer miners and small firms to quietly pocket their earnings, or to dispose of them without ostentation, are ample.

Of other minerals coal alone has been mined, and that to such a limited extent that coal mining can scarcely be called a business in Alaska. A number of deposits have received attention. At Port Muller, in Herendeen Bay, the Alaska Commercial Company took out 500 tons

of soft coal during the summer and it was used at Unalaska, Belkofsky, Unga, and other stations of the company. An inspection of it in the warehouse revealed a fine-looking article, and reports indicate a free-burning lignite. It is consumed rather too quickly for steaming purpose. This mine is located quite near the Bering Sea side of the peninsula and 13 miles from Portage Bay, to which it is proposed to build a railroad and deliver the coal from the southern port. An old mine on the north shore of Unga Island has been worked to a small extent to supply a local demand. The quality of the surface croppings, which alone have been reached, is not entirely satisfactory. The Cape Lisburne coal deposit is utilized by ships in the Arctic in want of fuel, but is not of first-class quality so far as found at this date. A more extensive venture has been made at Kachemak Bay, on the eastern shore of Cooks Inlet, where are extensive coal deposits lying conveniently for mining operations. The quality of this coal does not seem materially different from that found elsewhere in the Territory. Some 3,200 acres of these lands have been claimed and the claimants are maintaining their occupation and making a show of work upon them. The tests of the quality are said to prove that in the near future, when conditions are right for it, an extensive business will grow up here. Several other deposits of coal on Cooks Inlet furnish samples of similar quality to those in Kachemak Bay. Coal deposits at Yakutat, Killisnoo, and Admiralty Island have been prospected and good samples found, but no steps have been taken for systematic development. Copper, cinnabar, iron, marble, and granite abound, and Jade Mountain, a little northward of Kowak River, is alleged to furnish immense quantities of fine nephrite, but no survey has been made with a view to determining the value of minerals in the Territory, and information as to all of them, except those mined or quarried, is indefinite and unreliable.

FORESTS AND THE PRODUCTION OF LUMBER.

The forests of Alaska form one of the prominent features of the country. Along the coast and on the islands from its southeastern boundary to Kadiak Island and the peninsula opposite is one almost continuous forest, except where the elevations of the mountain ranges prevent the growth of trees, as is the case with all mountains rising to a height of more than 1,500 feet. The interior slope of the coast range is also wooded. The vast region of the interior northward is partially covered with forest growths except the low country bordering on the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean. The Yukon River and its southeastern branches are fringed with dense forests, while to the northward trees become scarce and stunted as approach is made to the northern ocean. In the eastern part there are considerable growths of wood as far north as the range of mountains 50 or 100 miles from the coast.

The western part of the peninsula and the Aleutian Islands have no trees. Alder bushes fringing the streams constitute the wood supply except what comes in the form of driftwood or is transported. The timber of the southeastern portion of the territory consists of spruce, hemlock, yellow and red cedar. It is erroneous to state that the spruce is of little value. While many enthusiasts have overrated the quality and quantity of this timber, it is certainly no unimportant item. All the valleys are filled with trees of immense size and great height. Trunks from 4 to 6 feet in diameter, straight and limbless to the height of 40 feet, are common. Trees seen from the decks of steamers along

shore are usually of smaller size and limbed to the ground. The spruce makes fine lumber. Hemlock is also quite abundant, and affords excellent lumber for outdoor uses, linings, and studding. Yellow cedar is the most valuable timber and the lumber manufactured from it is much sought. It does not occur in inexhaustible quantities, but in the aggregate there is a large amount. It is found upon all the islands of the Alexander Archipelago and not much elsewhere. The red cedar tree is more frequently met with than the yellow cedar in some portions of the southern islands, but is not so valuable. The forests of the interior are spruce, hemlock, birch, poplar, and other deciduous trees. There are thirteen mills for the manufacture of lumber in the territory, twelve of which are in the southeastern portion. The lumber business has been harassed by the unfortunate conditions of land titles and most of the lumber used has been imported from the States. Those who have endeavored to supply the demand for it from the Territory are now involved in suits for timber depredations. The depredations reported in 1890 by Timber Agent Gee, including all previous acts by these parties, are as follows:

	Amount.	Value.
Sitka Milling Co., Sitka	213, 600	\$4, 272
Presbyterian Mission, Sitka	35	68
Theodore Haltern, Sitka	1, 700	1, 850
Lake Mountain Mining Company, Sitka	5, 014, 000	184, 000
Alaska M. & M. Co., Douglas	300, 000	7, 500
Eastern M. & M. Co., Douglas	2, 200	6, 050
Alaska F. O. & G. Co., Killisnoo	80, 000	480
S. B. B. Mining Co., Juneau	1, 000, 000	7, 300
Wilson & Sylvester, Wrangel	3, 000	14, 800
Alaska T. & L. Co., Shakan	800, 000	3, 270
N. P. H. P. Co., Klawak	218, 000	750
Edward Cobb, Shakan	25, 000	29, 000
Wm. Duncan, Metlakahla	3, 000, 000	
Total		250, 340

LABOR SUPPLY.

The laborers of Alaska may be divided into three classes: White men, who receive large wages as skilled workmen; Chinamen, who usually work at specialties and in the canneries on contract; and natives, who form much the larger class, and are employed in various ways. The white laborers are quite generally employed as mechanics and artisans, foremen, and leaders of gangs. They are also employed when great responsibilities are thought to be resting upon the workmen, and if special trustworthiness is required. These responsible places are given to natives only after they have won special confidence, and then only rarely. Chinamen are cooks, waiters, and specialty workers in canneries. Most of the work of making, filling, and preparing cans for the market in the salmon-packing establishments is done by them. The natives do much of the fishing for the canneries and salteries, serve as boatmen, do all kinds of packing, work in the mines as common laborers, are wood choppers, and do any other work coming to them. White laborers command from \$3 to \$5 per day, natives from \$1.50 to \$3. Much of the fishing by natives is done by the piece. Some 2,500 Chinamen were employed by the canneries last year. The labor supply has been equal to the demand, and is likely to be so while there is so large a laboring class as the native population of this

Territory to draw from. They are, however, quite independent, and if prices do not suit they are able to live in their old ways upon fish, seaweed, and blubber.

Very little friction has occurred between employers and their employés. At Chilkat, where three canneries are located, the natives became dissatisfied with the prices paid for fish, and combining this grievance with an imagined infringement of their rights in the occupation of certain fishing grounds, they threatened to destroy the fishing nets of the cannery companies. Their attitude became so menacing that serious trouble was feared. Both the natives and the superintendents finally expressed a wish that the governor would come and see if the difficulties could be dispelled. Accordingly the U. S. S. *Pinta*, Captain Farenholt commanding, having the governor, the United States district attorney, and the captain of marines and a few of his men on board, steamed up Lynn Canal, and quietly dropped anchor at Pyramid Harbor. The natives for 25 miles around were called together, and a 2 days' conference closed with handshaking and a dispersion to their homes. The natives were a little sullen and declined to sell any fish at the prices offered, but all has since been quiet, and violence is not feared. The *Pinta* made a second trip to the scene of trouble 2 months later, and reported no apparent danger.

SHIPWRECKS.

Many vessels not enumerated below received injuries more or less serious during the last year, but the following were reported as total losses, to wit:

Spencer Beard, a 7-ton prospecting boat, lost at Tigalda Island in the spring of 1890.

The *Oneida*, a ship of 1,130 tons, while carrying a cannery outfit to Thin Point, was lost in the fog in May, 1890, and went ashore at Sanak Island. There were 77 Chinamen on board, and nearly all were lost. It was reported a total loss.

Schooner *Edward K. Webster* ran ashore near Coal Harbor, on Unga Island, and was reported a total loss, condemned and sold for \$300, but afterwards got off the rocks and taken to San Francisco by the purchasers.

The *Thomas Pope*, a tender to the whaling fleet in the Arctic, on the 28th day of August, 1890, was wrecked at Point Hope. The wreck and cargo were sold for \$525, but for some cause the court set the sale aside and allowed \$300 salvage.

The whaling bark *Eliza* became unmanageable, and was wrecked on St. Lawrence Island, October 11, 1890. Loss total and no insurance.

Schooner *Premier* went ashore in a gale of wind in clear weather, April 6, 1891, at Ramsey Bay, near Cape Johns. There were about 35 men on board, who were saved and taken to Seattle by U. S. revenue marine steamer *Bear*. The captain sold the vessel and cargo to the superintendent of the cannery at the port of departure, then went to San Francisco, reporting his vessel and cargo a total loss. How serious the damage does not appear.

Schooner *Sadie F. Callar* went ashore at Chignik Bay, April 6, 1891, and was a total loss. Insurance, \$9,600.

Fishing schooner *Dashing Wave* was wrecked on Hair Seal Cape, April 16, 1891, and was a total loss. Insurance, \$7,000.

The *Mary Allen* went ashore at Sand Point and was condemned and sold.

Whaling schooner *Silver Wave* during a heavy gale was driven ashore at Point Barrow and reported a total loss.

Marine underwriters are questioning the advisability of taking risks on vessels going into Alaska waters until better surveys are made.

TRANSPORTATION AND MAIL FACILITIES.

Transportation and travel in Alaska is effected almost entirely by the use of water craft of some kind. Travel into the interior is undertaken only for purposes of hunting, exploring and prospecting for minerals, and the lines of travel for these purposes are, for the most part, along streams navigable by small boats or rafts. No railways have been built or seriously contemplated. No wagon roads of importance have been opened. Fortunately, however, much of the country is accessible by water, and the settlements are mostly upon the shores. Transportation facilities include not only all the lines of public conveyance, but all the private vessels and small boats, from the large ocean steamers of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company to the Indian canoe.

Southeastern Alaska is very well supplied by the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's steamers, which make fortnightly trips from San Francisco and Portland to Sitka and way points during the year, and weekly trips in summer. Freight vessels with coal, powder, and supplies generally, for canneries, mines, and mercantile establishments make irregular trips as business demands it. The English bark *Martha Fisher*, 811 tons, direct from Liverpool, arrived at Killisnoo June 3 freighted with coal, and left June 30 with 800 barrels of oil and 700 tons of guano.

There is also said to be quite a smuggling fleet of schooners from Fort Simpson, bringing spirituous liquors, breech-loading firearms, and perhaps other contraband goods into the Territory.

Central, western, and northern Alaska are supplied largely from San Francisco, by vessels of the Alaska Commercial Company and the North American Commercial Company, the whaling, sealing, cannery, and codfish fleets, and Government vessels plying in Bering Sea—some 155 in number last year and perhaps 180 in 1891. These vessels took freights and passengers, in accommodation, to a limited extent, and never refused to carry mails without compensation. Many of these vessels, especially those going into the northern waters, stop at Unalaska on their way. In 1890 74 vessels called there. During the year the mail service continued as before reported, but a much desired change was inaugurated to take effect on the 1st day of July, 1891, which can not be more clearly explained or more concisely stated than in the following letter from the office of the Second Assistant Postmaster-General:

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 18, 1891.

SIR: Referring to your recommendation, I have the honor to inform you that an order has this day been issued to contract for mail service once a month from April 1 to October 31, inclusive, in each year, from July 1, 1891, to June 30, 1894, on route 78009, Sitka, by Yakutat, Nutchek, Kadiak, Unga, Humbolt Harbor, and Belkofsky, to Unalaska.

Very respectfully,

J. LOWRIE BELL,
Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

His Excellency LYMAN E. KNAPP,
Governor of Alaska.

The establishing of this mail route is received with much rejoicing by the people, who have long felt the need of some regular means of communication with central and western Alaska. It is hoped that the

country will be developed, government become more efficient, and the convenience of many people served. The North American Company's steamer *Elsie* has made regular trips since July 1, according to contract, and a larger steamer more suitable for the accommodation of the traveling public is promised for the next season.

Previous to the establishment of this mail route the Alaska Commercial Company endeavored to serve the public as mail carriers without compensation, and in 1890 their Unalaska office delivered 2,200 packages of mail matter to individuals, besides many sacks of mail to vessels intact. The same office also received and mailed at San Francisco, the nearest post-office, some 3,000 mail packages. The same company also received and delivered mail at each of their principal stations in the other districts. Other companies and all ships coming from San Francisco carried and delivered mail according to their opportunities and convenience. The number of Government post-offices in the Territory at the present time is 18, a small number for the accommodation of this vast country, but such an advance has been made within the last year that the people do not feel inclined to complain.

POPULATION.

The census of Alaska is not yet completed, and consequently its enumeration of the people is not available for our study of this subject. The advance bulletin of population indicates a slight falling off in the number of our native tribes. The enumeration was incomplete and some of the figures published ought to be revised. The number of people accredited as belonging to the Tsimpsians and Hydah tribes is manifestly erroneous, and in the case of the former it is admitted by the special agent. The error grew out of the absence of a very large number of people at the time of the enumeration. It may be stated generally that however faithful and thorough an enumerator may be, no complete and accurate record of Alaskan natives can be secured in summer time, when the villages are so largely deserted for the hunting and fishing grounds.

The white population of southeastern Alaska is considerably larger than 10 years ago, but it is still small, only about 1,900 persons. There are also some 327 Chinamen, 2 Japanese, and 4 colored persons, making a total, with the 5,834 natives, of 8,038. There is a very large falling off in the number of Aleuts, from 2,451 in 1880 to 1,000 in 1890. This discrepancy is in part accounted for in the inaccuracy of the earlier census. We have very few figures from the Eskimos and interior Indians, but such as are given disclose a very great diminution, as we had reason to expect from the reports constantly reaching us of the great comparative death rate among these peoples. The total population of Alaska may be estimated at 33,000.

The white population of Alaska is nearly one-half foreign born, and very many have never been naturalized as citizens of the United States.

CONDITION OF THE NATIVES.

The change of conditions from year to year is not so marked as to call for special comment, but in the settled portions of the country, that is, along the coast and upon the islands, there is constant progress in civilization and improved conditions of life. The agencies at work for the uplifting of these peoples are effective and doing much good, while business enterprises, employing them as laborers and coming in contact

with them in a business way, infuse them with civilized ideas. It is unfortunately true that bad ideas are also inculcated and immorality and vice go hand in hand with civilization to such an extent that many good people become disheartened and incline to surrender to the discouragements. But there should be no such impatience. Their progress out of darkness and degradation toward the light of a higher civilization compares most favorably with the darker ages of the early history of Germany and England. They are surely coming, and only patience and perseverance and the cooperation of good people everywhere, and especially the aiding hand of the Government extended as heretofore, but more liberally, in facilities for an enlightened government and their education in good things, will tell upon them in the near future more effectually than ever before.

As was stated more in detail in the last report, these people are in a very sad physical condition. Disease and death that ought to be averted by medical skill are doing their terrible work among them as never before. Hospital treatment alone would be effectual for the eradication of their chronic and hereditary diseases, and the idea of a hospital is beyond their conception and its erection is beyond their financial ability. The Government certainly owes them this much of assistance. Otherwise they need none at present. They are self-supporting and will continue so if rightly treated and protected from the rapacity of unprincipled men.

As to their moral condition I see no reason for changing my opinion as expressed last year. Slow and gradual improvement must content us, for we are not likely to realize more. In the accessible portions of the Territory there is probably very little danger of further trouble in the matter of submission to properly constituted authority. The people are peaceable and kindly disposed, measurably honest, and have great respect for the Government. If spirituous liquors can be kept away from them lawlessness need not be feared and crime will be reduced to a minimum.

A DEFINITE POLICY NEEDED.

Our statesmen of a century ago were excusable for adopting a policy toward the aborigines of the country which made the Indian tribes little less than domestic nations and the individual members of those tribes quasi foreigners, or at least having a divided allegiance. The policy was adopted under the stress of circumstances, compelling the Government to seek peaceful relations with organized bands of savages who might be useful as allies, but dangerous as enemies. That policy once fully established could not be abandoned at will, and the system and its natural sequences have ever since been continued, a fruitful source of trouble and danger, and a most perplexing problem for the Government.

There is less excuse for errors of policy in dealing with the aborigines of Alaska. Their conditions are entirely different. Their habits of life are unlike the habits of the Indians of the plains. They are more intelligent, settled, and reliable. They live in fixed abodes and are accustomed to independent and self-sustaining ways. They have already made great strides toward the American civilization. The Government is not embarrassed by treaties with them or other precedents of recognition of tribal relations, and it has a fair and open field for inaugurating a system which shall yield better results than the old one.

For nearly a quarter of a century of national responsibility for the welfare of the native peoples of Alaska we have neglected to fix upon a definite policy of treatment. But longer evasion is impossible. The time has come when a position must be taken.

The natives consider themselves the true owners of the country, with all its accompaniments of soil, forests, streams, and navigable waters. Its game, fish, and vegetable growths are their personal property. The white man is an invader to be tolerated as a matter of necessity, or perhaps as a matter of advantage. As a conquered people they bow to the inevitable and will accept such a place in the legal structure as shall be accorded them.

The sentiment of the white people in the Territory is divided. Some regard the natives as an inferior order of beings whose rights are not to be considered. With them the question is one of might, not right. Others recognize their subordination to the Government, which is at all events *de facto*, and still think the natives are citizens. They may be under disabilities of ignorance and barbarism. They may not yet have attained to that degree of civilization which qualifies for the intelligent exercise of some of the privileges of citizenship. But they are to be treated as minors or persons under guardianship. When the disability is removed full privileges follow without legal process or formality other than a declaration to that effect.

THEIR PRESENT LEGAL STATUS.

The position of the Government, as indicated by the rulings of executive officers, has been far from uniform. Whether this variableness indicates an uncertainty as to what the true legal status of the Alaskan native is, or only lack of information, is not my province to determine. However, this possible uncertainty and the necessity of a clear apprehension of the case by those having charge of legislation for Alaska render a few remarks upon this subject appropriate.

The third article of the treaty ceding Alaska to the United States is as follows:

The inhabitants of the ceded territory, according to their choice, reserving their natural allegiance, may return to Russia within three years; but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded territory, they, with the exception of the uncivilized tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the full enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion. The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may from time to time adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes of that country.

The words "may return to Russia" are used in the signification of "may remove to Russia."

These reservations of the rights of citizenship are as complete and certain for those to whom they are applicable as the sanctions of law can afford. The Russian Government, whose rights, duties, and obligations to the people were, by the treaty of purchase, assumed by the United States, apparently regarded all those who become christianized, that is, who joined the Russian Church, as citizens of the Russian Empire. If so, all these Christians, of whatever nationality, come within the reservation. It is certain that the Russian Government did not mean to include any members of the church in the class denominated "uncivilized tribes" in the third article of the treaty. At the present time it is claimed there are 11 Russian churches in Alaska, with 67 parishes presided over by unordained assistants, having a membership of

about 12,000. At the time of the transfer it was not less than now, and from the time of the Reverend Bishop Veniaminoff, himself a creole, to the present, the church officers and priests were largely of native and mixed blood. The Russian Church is a Government institution and officers in the church under Russian rule are officers of the Government. If these people are to be treated as citizens and other natives excluded from like privileges, where is the justice to those who are more intelligent, better educated, and having a higher civilization?

Acts of legislation having a possible bearing upon the subject ought to be noted. March 3, 1873, an act was passed amending section 1 of the Alaska act of 1868 so as to extend over the country sections 20 and 21 of the intercourse act of 1834, prohibiting the introduction and disposition of spirituous liquors therein, and Judge Deady correctly reasons that the extension of these two sections only excludes the idea of the intention to extend the whole act. In fact, the courts have repeatedly held that Alaska is not Indian country. (*In re Sah Qua*, 1 Alaskan Rep., 6; *Kie vs. United States*, 11 Saw. 579; *United States vs. Savoloff*, 2 Saw., 311; opinion of Judge McAlister, 7 West. Rep., 6.)

In 1884 the act known as the "organic act" was passed, making provision for the collection of revenues, the regular works of courts of justice, and the administration of the government, without reservations or qualifications as to persons or classes of inhabitants over whom the civil government was to have jurisdiction and authority. Since the passage of this act, if not before, the courts have assumed jurisdiction to try Indian offenders according to the laws of the United States, in no case allowing local customs among the tribes or native people to have any determining influence upon questions of punishment, as has ever been the case in the States where the tribal relation was recognized.

Elsewhere the Government has recognized the tribal relation and the existence of independent powers with whom treaties could be made, until the law of March 3, 1871, which declared that—

No tribe or nation within the territory of the United States shall be acknowledged or recognized as an independent nation or power with which the United States may contract by treaty; but no obligation of any such treaty lawfully made and ratified with such Indian nation or tribe prior to March 3, 1871, shall be thereby invalidated or impaired.

In the case of Alaskan Indians no such obligations had been taken.

This tribal relation, constituting an organized nation or power within the United States, allegiance to which was not forbidden, led to the unfortunate complications of decisions ousting the courts of jurisdiction to try offenders who had been dealt with according to the usages of the tribe to which they belonged. And even those Indians who had severed their tribal relations and submitted to the jurisdiction and laws of the United States were denied the rights of citizenship upon the theory that they were "born members of an independent political community" and could not become citizens by their independent volition, but that there must also be an assent in some form on the part of the United States. (*McKay vs. Campbell*, 2 Saw., 118; *United States vs. Osborne*, 6 Saw., 406; *Elk vs. Wilkins*, 112 U. S., 94.)

The argument of these decisions leads to the belief that their birth in a quasi foreign jurisdiction constituted their sole disability, and in the case of *Elk vs. Wilkins* the decision was even then by a divided court.

Several cases have arisen where remnants of tribes had ceased to exist as tribes and the members were recognized as citizens of the United States. In *United States vs. Elm* (23 Int. Rev. Rec., 419) Judge

Wallace held that an Indian of such a remnant, born in the State of New York, was entitled to vote. In Massachusetts citizenship is accorded to the remnants of tribes never recognized by treaties or legislative or executive acts of the United States as distinct political communities. (*Danzell vs. Webquish*, 108 Mass., 133; *Pells vs. Webquish*, 129 Mass., 469; Massachusetts Statutes, 1862, chap. 184; Massachusetts Statutes, 1869, chap. 463. See also *Fletcher vs. Peck*, 6 Cranch, 87; *Worcester vs. Georgia*, 6 Peters, 515.)

The fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States declares that—

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the States wherein they reside. No State shall make any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.

This amendment also, in section 2, apportions representation, "excluding Indians not taxed."

Justice Harlan, in giving the dissenting opinion of himself and Justice Wood, in *Elk vs. Wilkins*, takes the ground that the exclusion of Indians not taxed implies that there are Indians who are taxed—that is, are subject to taxation—and that Indians not taxed are those who hold tribal relations. In the debates upon the civil-rights bill passed April 9, 1866, especially in the arguments of Senators Trumbull and Hendricks, who took the two sides of the question of passage, the idea is distinctly presented that the Indian, when he shall have cast off his wild habits and submitted to the laws of organized society, becomes a citizen, and that the bill, if passed, would protect him in civil rights. (Cong. Globe, first sess. Thirty-ninth Cong., p. 527.)

President Johnson, in his message vetoing this bill, says: "Indians subject to taxation are declared to be citizens of the United States."

A committee appointed by the Senate in 1870 to inquire into the effect of the fourteenth amendment upon treaties with the Indian tribes said in their report:

Indian tribes within the limit of the United States and the individual members of such tribes, while they adhere to and form a part of the tribes to which they belong, are not, within the meaning of the fourteenth amendment, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and therefore such Indians have not become citizens of the United States by virtue of that amendment.

The report closes with these words:

When the members of any Indian tribe are scattered they are merged in the mass of our people and become equally subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Judge Cooley, commenting on citizenship conferred by the fourteenth amendment, distinctly avers that the aboriginal inhabitants of the country are not citizens while they preserve their tribal relations and recognize the headship of their chiefs, but when the tribal relation is dissolved, when the authority of the tribe is no longer recognized, and the individual makes himself a member of the civilized community, the case is wholly altered.

He no longer acknowledges a divided allegiance; he joins himself to the body politic; he gives evidence of his purpose to adopt the habits and customs of civilized life; and as his case is then within the terms of this amendment, it would seem that his right to protection in person, property, and privilege must be as complete as the allegiance to the Government to which he must then be held; as complete, in short, as that of any other native-born inhabitant. (2 Story's Const., Cooley's ed., sec. 1933, p. 654.)

If, then, when the facts are found, by the decisions of the courts or otherwise, it shall appear that the Alaska natives do not sustain the

tribal relation, that they do not exercise a divided fealty, that they are subject as individuals to the jurisdiction and laws of the United States, why are they not entitled to all the privileges of citizens? And if any portion of them are found to come within this category, are they not protected in the rights of citizenship by the fourteenth amendment?

The fact remains, however, that a sweeping grant of the privileges of the electoral franchise to the natives of Alaska would be disastrous. As a rule they are not educated up to ideas of our form of government. They are yet children in many respects, and would only become tools in the hands of demagogues. They do not understand our language. Many of them are still in barbarism and savagery. And the complication of all these circumstances, the doubt and difference of opinion as to their present legal status, their ignorance and barbarism, call most earnestly for a definition of their position by legislative enactment. It is not necessary that legislation shall attempt to perform impossibilities, or grant concessions not warranted by the conditions, or override the Constitution. Citizenship might be conceded and constitutional limitations placed as guards around the ballot box. Educational and language tests might be sufficient protection, and if not, some others might be devised.

The Metlakahla Indians stand in a different relation from the others, because they are not natives of Alaska or of the United States. Although here by the permission of the Government, and they sustain no tribal relation, and are so far civilized that they would be worthy and desirable citizens, yet under existing laws they must remain aliens until a new generation born upon the soil takes the place of those now on the stage of activity. An enabling act is necessary for their naturalization. (18 Op. Atty. Gen., 557; *In re Langtry*, 12 Saw., 467; *In re Frank Camille*, 9 Saw., 541; *In re Ah Yup, Chinaman*, 5 Saw., 155.)

LEGISLATION.

Although the pressure upon Congress, rendering it difficult for that body to give attention to the comparatively unimportant business of this remotest and most thinly settled of all the Territories, is recognized, yet we are constrained to make the appeal as our only resource of relief from the oppressing conditions weighing upon us. While comparatively unimportant, the preceding pages show that the interests of Alaska are not really insignificant either to the persons interested or the Government of the United States.

But how can Alaska secure a proper hearing? Every Senator and Member has his constituency and a pressure of demands upon him with regard to which he has immediate and special duties. Besides, the Territory of Alaska is so remote, so little known as to its needs and conditions, so helpless to make its wants felt because without Representative or Delegate, and has no political influence to throw into the scale. Resting under the burden of such difficulties, is it asking too much if we urge that special committees be appointed in Congress to have charge of Alaskan legislation and Alaskan interests? The duties of such committees would compel thought and investigation into matters pertaining to the Territory, and in the absence of a Representative would secure for them recognition as entitled to speak for it with authority.

Suggestions as to the revision of laws pertaining to the administration of justice have been made elsewhere in this report and need not be repeated. A few matters not thus discussed may be briefly alluded to as follows:

Provision ought to be made for the incorporation of municipalities, providing for the holding of elections, defining qualifications for voting, and giving such powers as are usually exercised by such municipalities elsewhere.

It is one of the important and pressing calls that Government hospitals be established for the accommodation of natives afflicted with chronic and hereditary diseases, and provision should be made for keeping insane persons and paupers.

Better transportation facilities should be provided for the use of the civil government in the performance of official duty.

Attention should be given to the public buildings without delay. A careful inspection and estimates of expense should be made by some competent person from the office of the Supervising Architect at Washington.

Agricultural experiment stations ought to be established at different places within the Territory.

The coast surveys ought to be hastened. The report of 10 shipwrecks in the waters of the Territory within a year, made a second time, is certainly a very convincing argument.

The legal and political status of the native population ought to be defined by legislative enactment.

More commissioners and deputy marshals are very much needed, and justices of the peace ought to be authorized and provision made for their compensation. Jails or lockups and other conveniences for the performance of the duties of commissioners and justices of the peace should be furnished.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LYMAN E. KNAPP,
Governor of Alaska.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.